



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - January 14, 2003

- ***In the West***, beneficial precipitation continues from ***northern California to the northern Rockies***, but unfavorably dry conditions persist elsewhere in the region, especially from the ***Southwest to the central Rockies***. Drought concerns include low reservoir levels and meager mountain snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather prevails across the ***southern half of the region***, but cold air is advancing westward and southward into previously mild areas from ***Montana to Kansas***, with temperatures falling below -10 degrees F this morning in ***eastern Montana***. The return of cold weather to the drought-affected ***northern High Plains*** is increasing concerns about the winter wheat crop, which remains exposed due to lack of snow cover.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow showers are confined to areas downwind of the ***Great Lakes***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, frozen fields and mostly bare soils continue to favor off-season activities, although very cold weather is increasing stress on livestock.
- ***In the South***, cool weather is slowing evaporation rates from still-soggy soils, limiting winter fieldwork.

Outlook: Cold, dry weather will prevail across much of the nation ***east of the Rockies***, although periods of snow will persist in the ***upper Midwest, Great Lakes States, and Northeast***. Meanwhile, a Pacific storm system will bring occasional rain and snow to the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies*** before emerging into the ***northern and central high Plains*** on Wednesday. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather will prevail across the ***southern half of the nation*** through mid-week, although showers will linger in ***southern Florida***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 19-23 features drier-than-normal weather in the ***western third and eastern half of the Nation***, with wetter-than-normal conditions limited to the ***north-central Plains***. Meanwhile, subnormal temperatures will persist in the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, with above-normal readings likely ***west of the Rockies***.

Contact: Mark Brusberg, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3508)